



Slough Conservative Association

Manifesto 2014

SCA, PO BOX 3958, Slough, SL3 3GH



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FINANCE AND COUNCIL EFFICIENCY

- Cut Council Tax by a minimum 1% in 2015 and a minimum of 3% over a 4-year term
- Simplify the structure of the Council's senior management along the lines that Windsor & Maidenhead have, to reduce costs and improve responsiveness
- Raise Council Tax collection rates, reduce Council write-offs of Business Rates and tighten controls on benefit fraud to ensure a fair deal for residents
- Avoid above inflation increases in fees and charges, especially for unsubsidised services

CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Improve out-of-hours responses for a range of urgent council functions when offices are closed
- More support for residents who experience anti-social behaviour, improving the response time for resolution of problems
- Not to house people with ASB records near the elderly and disabled
- Support victims of child trafficking, female genital mutilation (FMG) and forced marriage with the aim of bringing about criminal prosecutions

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- Remove failed traffic calming measures in Langley village, and change Chalvey Road East and West back to 2-way traffic to benefit residents and businesses
- Restrict Highways spending to essentials like fixing potholes or improving traffic flows, including bringing back bus laybys
- Simplify signage and signals to get Slough's traffic moving again
- Listen to bus users; seek enhancements to bus services where possible
- Improve Slough Bus station to offer better toilet facilities for all and more protection for customers from bad weather

ADULT SERVICES

- Plan with health partners accountable to SBC to spend our extra per capita funding on increasing GP numbers by two-thirds (same as Windsor & Maidenhead) over the next 5 years.
- Fight for local health facilities to be maintained and enhanced across the borough, not cut, removed or "centralized" to other places
- Encourage older residents to stay in their own homes for longer through better targeted support and easier downsizing options
- Help to introduce accommodation for people with learning difficulties close to where they work and/or where their care networks are

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PLANNING AND HOUSING

- Create more high quality housing in Slough by converting empty Office space
- Reduce the turn-round time for putting empty social housing back into use
- Work to ensure planning policy is fair and transparent to all with no special privileges
- Strengthen enforcement against planning infringements

EDUCATION AND CHILDRENS' SERVICES

- Ensure all money given by Central Government for Education is spent on Education
- Improve the Council's "Inadequate" safeguarding of vulnerable and looked-after children to an Ofsted "Good" rating.
- Review provision of school places out-of-borough as well as internally to ensure Slough parents are not being disadvantaged
- Support local applications for Free Schools to provide sufficient spaces for Slough pupils in Slough
- Bringing back a University campus to Slough

LEISURE AND LIBRARIES

- Enhance Slough's parklands, including raising the number of free tennis courts to the level of five years ago
- Get the sports pitches and changing rooms built alongside Richards Way, Cippenham into service without further delay.
- Improve Slough's library and arts provision
- Re-house in one new building the Montem swimming pool, the Ice Arena and a Gymnasium as well as an arts space with car parking and some new housing on the present Montem site
- Make better use of The Centre, including for a library, childrens centre and service access point, plus a commercially-run cafe.

ENVIRONMENT

- Protect Slough's Greenbelt lands from developers and improve public access
- Better inform residents about sustainability, grants and discount schemes available
- Introduce food-waste recycling
- Support introduction of additional dog bins where justified and increase action against dog fouling and other littering
- Plant more trees and woodland

Conservatives believe in working in partnership with Slough's parish councils and voluntary sector organizations – helping them to do more to help you – creating a stronger community spirit and offering greater mutual support.

Anna Wright
Conservative Group Leader

Dexter Smith
SCA Chairman

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